(xi) The Ministry of Rural Development has launched the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) on 25th September, 2001 based on the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 2001. Under the programme, it is envisaged to utilize 50 lakh MTs of foodgrains every year. The allocation of foodgrains under SGRY upto 28.2.2002 has been 30.82 lakh MTs.

(xii) The Open Market Sale Scheme of wheat was continued during the current financial year 2001-2002. The quantity sold from April, 2001 to 15.2.2002 was 37.87 lakh tonnes.

Diversion of foodgrains from TPDS

1952. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the magnitude of diversion of wheat, rice and sugar from the TPDS at the national level;

(b) the reasons therefor

(c) the steps taken by Government to control such diversion; and

(d) how far these measures have been effective in controlling diversion of foodgrains from TPDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As per a survey conducted by M/s. Tata Economic Consultancy Services (TECS) in 1997, the extent of diversion at the national level has been estimated at 36% for wheat, 31% for rice and 23% for sugar. Many States while recognizing that leakages do take place, have disagreed with the perentage of diversion as given in the TECS report.

The study has highlighted a number of causes of diversion such as existence of bogus units, low margins given to Fair Price Shops (FPSs), abnormal storage and transit losses in handling by State agencies, irregular supply resulting in variation in entitlement, under

measurement, supply of commoditites of inferior quality to beneficiaries, lack of awareness of entitlement, non-lifting of commoditites by the upper segments of society, *etc.*

(c) and (d) The Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Addministrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commoditites upto the Central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the FPS and other levels and to make arrangements for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the rural areas and local bodies in the urban areas.

In order to streamline the functioning of PDS and make it more accountable and effective, Government of India has issued the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The PDS (Control) Order, 2001 contain several provisions to empower State Government/UT Administrations to curb diversion to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate legal action against erring FPS owners, *etc.* An offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under section 7 of Act.

Marketing yards and godowns for farmers in Rajasthan

1953. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for setting up of marketing yards and Government godowns, for providing additional storage and marketing facilities to the farmers have been submitted by the Government of Rajasthan and other State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;